Memorandum of Interview With Marrell McCollough, Safeway Building, Washington, D.C., July 12, 1976.

Marrell McCollough, a former member of the Memphis Police Department, was interviewed by team members Folsom and Walker. McCollough stated that he joined the MPD the day after Labor Day, 1967, graduating from the police academy on December 6, 1967. After graduation he worked as a uniformed patrolman until February of 1968.

In February of 1968 McCollough stated that he went undercover for the specific purpose of infiltrating the "Invaders" who became active about the same time of the sanitation workers strike. McCollough said the "Invaders" consisted of about 15 members (mostly college students) and were a black power group similar to the Black Panthers. At the time, McCollough said the "Invaders" sat around and did a lot of talking, but were not involved in much action. He stated that the police department was concerned about what they might do.

At the time of Dr. King's entry onto the strike scene, McCollough stated that the "Invaders" wanted part of the action. After the violence of March 28, 1968, they met with Dr. King at the Lorraine Motel and told him that if he wanted to keep the marches non-violent he would have to deal with them. They demanded cars and money for their organization. However, Dr. King equivocated and did not give them an answer. McCollough said the "Invaders"

wanted the cars for their transportation. He said he was the only one in the group with a car, and this made him more acceptable to them.

On April 4, 1968, the day of Dr. King's death, McCollough said he was in school the first part of the day. After school, shortly after noon, he went to the Lorraine Motel and picked up Reverend Bevel and Reverend Orange to take them shopping for overalls which were a big item then. They returned to the Lorraine Motel sometime after 5:00 P.M. He was followed to the motel by Clara Ester and Mary Hunt who were riding in another car.

McCollough read his FBI interview statement dated April 12, 1968, and said the details reflected therein are accurate. He stated that the FBI did not know he was an undercover officer for the MPD at the time of his interview, but he believes they found out later. McCollough said he was primarily interested in the "Invaders", not Dr. King.

McCollough stated that he does not recall being with any of the "Invaders" on April 4, 1968, and that he did not see any of them around the Lorraine Motel when he came back there with Reverend Bevel and Reverend Orange after 5:00 P.M. Continuing, McCollough said he was positive that the shot that killed Dr. King came from the rear of the buildings which front on South Main Street. Moreover, he said he did not see anyone in the bushes in the back of the lot.

McCollough stated that he remained in an undercover capacity for about a year after the assassination and that the "Invaders" had precipitated a great deal of violence, including arson and the shooting of a policeman. His undercover assignment was terminated after his cover was blown by a woman who found his name on the police payroll.